tioch made Roger's name dreaded among Greeks and Moslems, while his own personality finds more mention among friendly or hostile writers of the time than any of the Sicilian sea-captains of the century, if we except Margarito. The Arab writers, in particular, pay him the tribute of hostility and fear; a man who was so versed in Arabic and Moslem politics, who knew all then-towns so well, seemed to them half a renegade, and a more than dangerous enemy. "He was," so they said, "a man such that no one would want to warm himself at the same fire with him," *i.e.,* he was no man to trust or trifle with. "This cursed fellow knew all the weak sides of Al Mah-dia and the other Moslem towns; he and his lord Roger practise continual craft against Al Mahdia."[1]

The disaster of Al Mahdia in 1123 was followed by an intermission of active warfare and Roger's energies were soon turned to the mainland. But the thought of it remained a ranlding memory, if not with Roger, at least with his more hot-blooded officers. One Abd-er-Rahman told the historian Abu-as-Salt that he had seen at the court of Roger,

a Frank, heavily bearded, who tore with

his hands
the point of his beard, swearing by the Gospels that
he would never cut a hair of it until vengeance had
been taken on the people of Al Mahdia. I was told
that in that defeat of Al Ahasi lie had torn out his

[1] Amari, *S.D.M.,* iii., p. 421, and Al-Baian, *B.A.S.,* ii., p. 38.